

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-56 are pending. Claims 1-56 stand rejected.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action sets forth at page 2, paragraph 2, "claims 1, 2, 6-18, 28-33, and 35-44, 48-49, 53-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lerber et al (US 2002/0092977A1)."

The Office Action sets forth at page 3, paragraph 4, "claims 3-5, 19-27, 34, 45-47, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lerber et al."

The Office Action sets forth at page 5 paragraph 5, "claims 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lerber et al. in view of Lehmann."

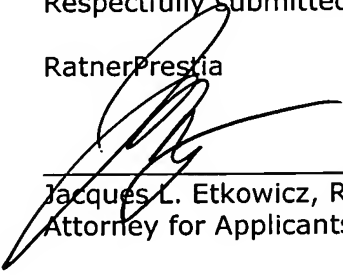
Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants submit Declarations of the Inventors (Exhibit A) and an employee of the assignee (Exhibit B) that show that applicants' invention predates the effective filing date of Lerber. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the claims as being anticipated by or unpatentable over Lerber are improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Ratner Prestia



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JLE/kpc

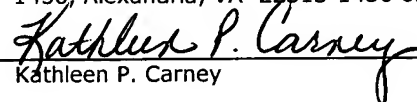
Enclosures: Exhibit A
Exhibit B

Dated: October 14, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 14, 2005.



Kathleen P. Carney